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(21) International Application Number: PCT/GB99/02317 (22) International Filing Date: 19 July 1999 (19.07.99) (30) Priority Data: 9815933.8 23 July 1998 (23.07.98) GB (71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR DEFENCE [GB/GB]; Defence Evaluation and Research Agency, Ively Road, Farnborough, Hampshire GU14 0LX (GB). (72) Inventors; and (75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only): DREWE, Lisa, Joanne [GB/GB]; CBD Porton Down, Salisbury, Wiltshire SP4 0JQ (GB). BRIGHTWELL, Gale [GB/GB]; CBD Porton Down, Salisbury, Wiltshire SP4 0JQ (GB). HALL, Elizabeth, Ann, Howlett [GB/GB]; CBD Porton Down, Salisbury, Wiltshire SP4 0JQ (GB). (74) Agent: BOWDERY, A., O.; D/IPR, Formalities Section, Poplar 2, MOD Abbey Wood #19, Bristol BS34 8JH (GB).		(81) Designated States: AE, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, CA, CH, CN, CU, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, NO, NZ, PL, PT, RO, RU, SD, SE, SG, SI, SK, SL, TJ, TM, TR, TT, UA, UG, US, UZ, VN, YU, ZA, ZW, ARIPO patent (GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, SD, SL, SZ, UG, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, CH, CY, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG). Published <i>With international search report.</i>
(54) Title: NUCLEIC ACID DETECTION METHOD BY TRIPLE HELIX FORMATION		
(57) Abstract A method for detecting the presence of a target nucleic acid sequence in a sample, said method comprising (a) amplifying said target nucleic acid so that the product of the amplification reaction includes a purine rich region, (b) contacting the sample with a peptide nucleic acid able to bind to at least a portion of said target sequence; and (c) detecting the presence of triplex DNA structures. The detection is suitably effected directly, for example using a surface plasmon resonance detector.		